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CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

August 18, 2015

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
838 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

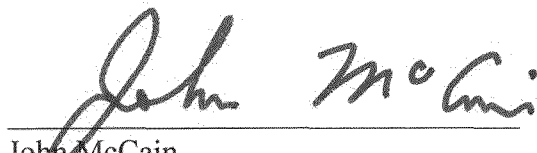
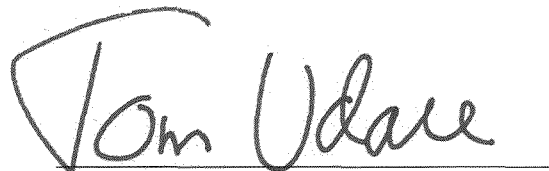
Dear Chairman Barrasso and Vice Chairman Tester:

We respectfully request that you hold an oversight hearing on the impact of the EPA Gold King Mine spill on the Navajo Nation, one of the largest Native American tribes in the country. There are also number of other EPA activities involving the Navajo Nation, like the cleanup of Cold War era uranium mining, that also deserve additional scrutiny.

We have been in contact with Navajo Nation leadership and they continue to be dissatisfied with EPA's response to the Gold King Mine crisis. While the spill appears to be diluted to the point where it is not as visible, the environmental, economic, and cultural cost borne by the Navajo people has yet to be fully understood. As you know, the San Juan River is an important source of water not only for human consumption but for agriculture purposes. During the peak of the spill, some farmers were forced to travel many miles from their homes to find enough drinkable water for their livestock.

We applaud your ongoing leadership on this issue and your continued support for the Navajo Nation during this incident.

Sincerely,


John McCain
United States Senator
Tom Udall
United States Senator

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